

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1: Change the title to read: --**THERMAL STRESS TOLERANT FUEL CELL ASSEMBLY WITHIN A HOUSING**--.

Page 1: After the title, replace paragraph [0001] with the following amended paragraph [0001]:

[0001] This is a 371 national phase application of PCT/IB2004/002317 filed July 17, 2004, the content of which is incorporated herein by reference. The disclosures of Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-277291 filed July 22, 2003, and Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-393887 filed November 25, 2003, including the specification, drawings and abstract, are incorporated herein by reference in [[its]] their entirety.

Page 2, before paragraph 6, insert the following:

[0006] Further, document DE 100 49 801 A1 discloses a fuel cell assembly, wherein fuel cell modules are secured in the stack axis by an elastic holding plate that is coated with an insulating material. A spring applies a uniform pressure on the stack. The so build fuel cell assembly is enclosed within a container to prevent intrusion of impurities into the assembly.

[0007] Another fuel cell assembly is disclosed in document DE 195 45 11 A1. This assembly comprises a plurality of fuel cell modules sorrounded by an elastic, having an insulating layer. Elastic members are provided to relieve mechanical movement of the modules due to thermal expansion.

[0008] Further, document US 4,176,213 discloses a battery unit, containing one or more fuel-cell blocks, wherein the blocks are attached to a beam having an I-shaped cross-section, on both sides against the thin intermediate section thereof.

[0009] Document US 5,824,199 A further discloses an electrochemical cell having an inflatable member, wherein a conductive inflatable member is provided between an electrode and a current for providing uniform contact pressure, and thus uniform electrical contact between the electrode and the current bus. The inflatable member comprises a pair of flexible plates, where one plate is thinner than the other.

[0010] Further, document JP 09092324 discloses a cell module which is formed of a cell layered product and a module forming member. Each module has a module frame clamping a plurality of single unit cells together, wherein the stacked modules are surrounded by an external enclosure. An insulation layer made from rubber or resin is provided between multi-cell modules and an inner wall of a frame as well as between an outer wall of the frame and the enclosure.